

LONDON- WEST MIDLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Volume 5 | Technical Appendices

CFA21 | Drayton Bassett, Hints and Weeford
Baseline report (CH-001-021)
Cultural heritage

November 2013

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Department
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Eland House,
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Appendix CH-001-021

Environmental topic:	Cultural heritage	CH
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1 Introduction

1.1 Structure of the cultural heritage appendices

- 1.1.1 The cultural heritage appendices for the Drayton Bassett, Hints and Weeford community forum area (CFA) comprise:
- baseline reports (this appendix);
 - a gazetteer of heritage assets (Appendix CH-002-021);
 - impact assessment (Appendix CH-003-021); and
 - survey reports (Appendix CH-004-021).
- 1.1.2 Maps referred to throughout the cultural heritage appendices are contained in the Volume 5 cultural heritage map book.

1.2 Content and scope

- 1.2.1 This baseline provides part of the evidence base, along with Appendices CH-002-021, CH-003-021 and CH-004-021, against which the assessment of assets that may be affected by the Proposed Scheme can be determined. It collates information about known and potential heritage assets from a variety of sources and presents a chronological description and discussion of the development of the study area, placing assets within their historical and archaeological context.
- 1.2.2 The baseline is structured, as with other CFAs, as follows:
- Section 1 of the document provides introductory material relating to the scope of the assessment, study area and key data sources;
 - Section 2 provides background info on geology and topography;
 - Section 3 provides a chronological description of the archaeological and historical development of the area;
 - Section 4 provides an overview of the Built Heritage resource;
 - Section 5 relates to a Map Regression;
 - Section 6 provides a description of the Historic Landscape, including Registered Parks & Gardens and Important Hedgerows;
 - Section 7 describes the archaeological character of the route; this is closely related to Appendix 6.3;
 - Section 8 provides an overview of archaeological understanding and potential; and
 - Section 9 contains a bibliography.
- 1.2.3 Figures presenting cultural heritage data are presented in the Volume 5 map books.
- 1.2.4 Supporting Technical Appendices to the Cultural Heritage baseline and assessment are:

- Appendix CH-002-021: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets;
- Appendix CH-003-021: Impact assessment table; and
- Appendix CH-004-021: Surveys.

1.3 Study area

- 1.3.1 The Drayton Bassett, Hints and Weeford CFA lies in the district of Lichfield, Staffordshire and comprises parts of the civil parishes of Middleton, Drayton Bassett, Hints, Weeford, Swinfen and Packington.
- 1.3.2 The study area for this baseline assessment within which a detailed assessment of all assets, designated and non-designated has been undertaken, is defined as the land required to construct the Proposed Scheme plus 500m. The setting of all designated heritage assets within 2km of the centre line of the Proposed Scheme has also been considered.
- 1.3.3 All identified assets are listed in Appendix CH002-021 and shown on Maps CH-01-059 through CH-01-061 and CH-02-35 and CH-02-36 in Volume 5.

1.4 Data sources

- 1.4.1 Sources examined as part of this baseline assessment include published secondary sources, cartographic sources, historic environment record (HER) data for undesignated heritage assets and English Heritage national heritage list data for designated assets. A full list of published sources can be found in Section 10 of this appendix.

1.5 Surveys undertaken

- 1.5.1 The following surveys were undertaken as part of the EIA process:
- LiDAR survey of the majority of the Proposed Scheme and land around it (see Appendix CH-004-021);
 - hyperspectral survey of the majority of the Proposed Scheme and land around it (see Appendix CH-004-021);
 - a programme of non-intrusive surveys including geophysical prospection (see Appendix CH-004-021); and
 - site reconnaissance field inspections to review the setting of historic assets and the character and form of the historic landscape.

2 Geology, topography and landform

- 2.1.1 The underlying bedrock geology of the study area is dominated by Triassic Mudstone in the south and Triassic Sandstone in the north. Mercian Mudstone Group – Mudstone dominates the southern part of the study area up to Roundhill Wood, whilst the northern section of the study area is characterised by Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation. The far northern section of the study area around Whittington Heath comprises of an outcrop of Early Triassic Kidderminster Formation Sandstone.
- 2.1.2 The central section of the study area, from Roundhill Wood to the A5 just north of Weeford, is formed by the oldest geology in the area, Carboniferous/Permian Sandstone of the Enville Member formation. Smaller patches of Kidderminster Formation Sandstone and Hopwas Breccia Formation Sandstone are also found, which date to the Early Triassic period.
- 2.1.3 The superficial geology of the study area is dominated by Flandrian alluvial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel, running roughly east-west across the study area between Hints and Weeford along the existing Black-Bourne Brook river valley, a tributary of the River Tame. A second, smaller area of Flandrian alluvium is also located in the far south of the study area, along the valley of a small brook which is now a tributary of the Birmingham and Fazeley canal. The surface geology between the two river valleys is dominated by Mid-Pleistocene Till, found within the study area between Drayton Bassett and Great Bangley Farm. With the exception of a small area of Mid-Pleistocene Till recorded at the Whittington Barracks, no superficial deposits are recorded north of the Black-Bourne Brook valley alluvium.
- 2.1.4 The topography of south and south-east Staffordshire is primarily determined by the weathered Triassic bedrock and the floodplains of the Trent River tributaries described above. As a result the geology creates a complex undulating landscape.
- 2.1.5 The topography of the study area is dominated by a prominent formation of hills aligned east-west to the south of the Black-Bourne Brook Valley. The valley has created an area of lower lying land in the centre of the study area, from Weeford to Hints, accentuated by a geological fault to the south, which runs across the study area along the boundary of the Mudstone and Sandstone Bedrock in a north-east to south-west direction. The southern part of the study area therefore sits on a slight plateau around 100m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) above the river valley.
- 2.1.6 To the north of Black-Bourne Brook, a ridge of hills rises in a north-easterly direction from Hints to Hopwas Hays Wood. These reach heights of 150m AOD. The northern part of the study area, between Weeford and Whittington is undulating cut by small stream valleys at around 90m AOD and with peaks around 105m AOD. The fertile neutral clay-rich soils in the study area support woodland and pasture.
- 2.1.7 North of the A5 the landscape is more uniform than that to the south, with large post-war fields, regular planned enclosures and areas of quarrying dominating. The landscape of the study area is now dominated by field systems, the majority of which were established in the 19th century as a result of the enclosures. The major exception to this is the central part of the study area, where large areas of woodland survive, along and around the Black-Bourne Brook, interspersed with settlement of Hints

focussed around the old Hints Hall. The landscape at the southern end of the Scheme is dominated by various fieldscapes, some being examples of 18th and 19th century planned enclosures which has masked earlier deer and landscape parks such as Bangley Park and Hints Hall park. The landscape around Hints differs from that to the south, with enclosures becoming more varied in size, with more frequent pockets of woodland and valley floor floodplain fields. This variation is likely due to the topography of this area.

- 2.1.8 The geology and topography of the study area, on free-draining soils, located close to a number of water sources and with gently sloping topography at the north and south, is well-suited to occupation and exploitation during the prehistoric and Romano-British periods. The central area around Hints Hills is less likely to have been occupied due to the steeply undulating topography. Alluvium is recorded along the courses of the Black-Bourne and Gallows Brooks and the potential of these deposits to preserve palaeo-environmental remains has been recognised. Any environmental remains may help in reconstructing past environments, thereby allowing for a more in depth understanding of past societies.

3 Archaeological and historical background

3.1 Early prehistory

Palaeolithic 500,000-10,000BC

- 3.1.1 Staffordshire has produced far less evidence for Palaeolithic activity and occupation than other areas in southern and eastern England¹. There is currently no definitive evidence that the landscape of the study area was occupied in this period, and nothing substantial has been located within the large gravel extraction sites approximately 5km to the east of the study area.
- 3.1.2 The absence of any significant outcrops of flint within the study area (used for making tools in this period) led to a regional use of poorer quality drift flint and other local materials such as local "Bunter" quartzite pebbles, found to the north and west of Birmingham^{2,3}. Much of the evidence for Palaeolithic occupation and activity comes from cave sites where these materials were available⁴, examples of which are not found within the study area.
- 3.1.3 Artefacts found in the region have generally been recovered from river deposits further south of the study area. The environment at that time would have been a harsh one subject to successive glaciations and at the very edge of human settlement. Populations would have relied on constant access to water and food sources available from river valleys⁵. Within the study area and wider landscape is the River Tame. The study area is located within the river valley and terraces to the west of the river and the area may have been the focus for human activity in the early Prehistoric period. Due to the changing course of the river and post-depositional processes within river valleys, any evidence of activity may only survive at significant depth below ground level.
- 3.1.4 Current understanding of this early period of prehistory within the study area is therefore limited. As well as a lack of artefacts such as stone tools, environmental evidence from all prehistoric periods, such as pollen and faunal remains have never been recovered from the study area. Recovery of such remains would be important in re-constructing the environment of the Palaeolithic and later periods, and would aid in understanding the potential for Palaeolithic settlement and activity in the area.

Mesolithic 10,000-4,000BC

- 3.1.5 While no Mesolithic material has been found within the study area, artefacts have been recovered from the surrounding landscape, with significant flint scatters recovered from Shenstone and Wishaw, to the west and southwest of the study area

¹ Garwood, P. (2011) The earlier prehistory of the West Midlands in 2011. In: Watt, S., ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp.9-99.

² Garwood 2011, 15.

³ Lang, A.T.O., and Buteux, S.T.E. (2007) Lost but not forgotten: the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic occupation of the West Midlands. In: P. Garwood, ed., *The Undiscovered Country: the early prehistory of the West Midlands*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 6-22.

⁴ Myers, A. M. (2007) The Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology of the West Midlands. In: P. Garwood, ed. *The Undiscovered Country: the early prehistory of the West Midlands*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp 23-38.

⁵ Lang and Buteux 2007, 15-16.

respectively⁶: over 1500 flints dated to the 6th millennium BC were recovered from Wishaw Hall Farm during work carried out in advance of the M6 Toll Road. The artefacts were located on a clay slope overlooking low ground and the course of a stream and probably represent a temporary camp⁷, 4km to the south of the study area. Based on current archaeological understanding, Mesolithic camps are considered to be broadly located on higher ground near water sources, such as river valley terraces⁸. The study area, particularly to the north of Black-Bourne Brook and north of Gallows Brook, may therefore have been a suitable location for exploitation by Mesolithic groups.

- 3.1.6 Flints have been recovered from near Hill Farm (DHW128) but these have not been dated to a specific prehistoric period. Known structural evidence environmental deposits of this date are rare in the UK as a whole – if any such material were to be found in the study area this would be of high value.

Neolithic 4,000-2,200BC

- 3.1.7 The Neolithic period is widely defined by the introduction and development of farming to Britain although the impact on economy and the landscape may have been very minor in the early part of the period^{9, 10, 11, 12}. Monument and site types, including settlement enclosures, funerary monuments and house sites are rare within the west midlands, with no examples identified within the study area.
- 3.1.8 Early Neolithic pottery was recovered from a pit at Shenstone, 2 km west of the study area, with cereal grains recovered from this radiocarbon dated to the early Neolithic¹³. Environmental material from other sites in the west midlands indicate fewer woodland species in pollen samples and an increase in weed species during the 4th millennium BC¹⁴. This has been interpreted as indicating some degree of land clearance, possibly for agricultural purposes. Other evidence of activity comes from finds of early Neolithic pottery from Wall, to the west of the northern end of the study area. While it is clear that the wider landscape was used during this time, the question of where and how these communities lived has yet to be fully understood.
- 3.1.9 Later Neolithic sites and artefacts are distinctive in that new forms of pottery and flint tools were developed during the period and the construction of large funerary and ceremonial monuments within the landscape began. The ceremonial landscape at Catholme/Whitemore Haye, 10km north northeast of the study area, is the closest example of identified later Neolithic ceremonial activity within the wider landscape¹⁵.
- 3.1.10 While no Neolithic sites or finds have been found locally, based on understanding gained from finds across the region as a whole, the northern and southern ends of the

⁶ Powell, A.B., Booth, P., Fitzpatrick, A.P. and Crockett, A.D. (2008) *The Archaeology of the M6 Toll, 2000-2003*, Oxford-Wessex Monograph 2. Oxford Wessex Archaeology: Oxford and Salisbury.

⁷ Ibid: 503.

⁸ Myers, A. M. (2007) The Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology of the West Midlands. In: P. Garwood, ed. *The Undiscovered Country: the early prehistory of the West Midlands*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp 23-38.

⁹ Thomas, J.S. (1999) *Understanding the Neolithic*. Routledge: London.

¹⁰ Whittle, A. (1996) *Europe in the Neolithic: The Creation of New Worlds* (Cambridge World Archaeology). Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.

¹¹ Thomas, J.S. (1993) Discourse, totalisation and 'the Neolithic'. In: C. Tilley, ed., *Interpretive Archaeology*, 357-194. Berg: London.

¹² Thomas, J. (2003) Thoughts on the 'repacked' Neolithic revolution. *Antiquity* 77, pp. 67-74.

¹³ Powell et al 2008, 191.

¹⁴ Garwood 2011, 35.

¹⁵ Ibid. 54-56.

study area, near to the brooks and with lower undulating topography would be the most likely areas to yield any such remains.

3.2 Later prehistory

Bronze Age 2,200- 700BC

- 3.2.1 Metal working was introduced to Britain in this period, but little metal work or other finds of the period have been made in the study area and surrounding landscape. A Middle Bronze Age cremation was excavated at Hints Quarry, just to the east of the study area, from a site situated on the crest of a hill overlooking the surrounding landscape and near to other prehistoric features. The discovery of both domestic and mortuary features at the quarry may indicate the presence of a nearby Bronze Age settlement¹⁶.
- 3.2.2 Much settlement evidence for this period comes from distribution patterns of ring ditches and round barrow sites. Large numbers of round barrows and ring ditches that either survives as partial earthworks or below-ground remains identified from aerial photography have been identified in the west midlands. Ring ditches are common in river terrace locations while surviving round barrows are more commonly found in marginal upland landscapes such as the Staffordshire Peak District¹⁷.
- 3.2.3 It has been suggested that ring ditches on river terraces may be located close to occupation sites¹⁸: concentrations have been noted within the Tame Valley (into which the Gallows and Black-Bourne Brooks flow), with a notable concentration at the Trent/Tame confluence 10km northeast of the Study area. There are no such sites in the study area, although the pit alignments (DHW127 and DHW141) north of Hints, thought likely to be of this date (though they may be later), may indicate a degree of settlement was present.
- 3.2.4 Burnt mounds are also a significant feature of the Bronze Age landscape¹⁹. The presence of water sources such as Bourne and Gallows Brook increases the potential for such remains to be found in the study area as burnt mounds are known along these brooks to the south.

Iron Age 800BC-AD43

- 3.2.5 The Iron Age landscape of the study area is characterised by evidence of more intensive farming than in previous periods as well as more visible settlements sites, many of which have been identified from aerial photography and some of which were excavated during the construction of the M6 Toll to the west of the study area²⁰.
- 3.2.6 Excavations during the construction of the M6 Toll have shown Iron Age settlements of varying forms are to be found at a range of topographical locations²¹. Sites excavated included rectilinear enclosures with circular buildings, a site straddling

¹⁶ Krawiec, K., Edwards, E. and Brinkley, M. (2010) A Middle Bronze Age cremation and other prehistoric features at Hints Quarry, Staffordshire. *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological Society*, 44.

¹⁷ Ibid. 69.

¹⁸ Garwood 2011, 75.

¹⁹ Hurst, D. (2011) Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age: a research assessment overview and agenda. In: Watt, S., ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 101-26.

²⁰ Powell et al 2008.

²¹ Ibid, 510.

either side of a brook, as well as unenclosed settlements²². Other Iron Age features excavated include pit alignments²³. Recovery of burials from the period is rare, with a particular dearth of examples from the west midlands²⁴.

- 3.2.7 Iron Age pottery has been recovered from sites excavated in advance of the A5 Weeford to Fazeley Improvement Scheme²⁵. As with other excavated sites in the wider area, the amount of material from the A5 sites was quite limited²⁶. A settlement site was identified during the excavations, consisting of an enclosure ditch with pits and post-holes²⁷.
- 3.2.8 A number of crop mark sites (DHW101, DHW102, DHW111, DHW112, DHW142, DHW166) within the study area may date to the Iron Age. These are near Drayton Lane End Farm, north of Middleton, at Roundhill Wood and north of the A5. Features near DHW111 identified in a geophysical survey²⁸ could relate to this site. Iron Age evidence may therefore be found anywhere in the study area.

3.3 Romano-British AD43-410

- 3.3.1 In comparison to the south of England there is a general shortage of evidence for Roman settlement, structure and artefact types in the west midlands²⁹, with little evidence for Roman villas in the study area or the surrounding landscape³⁰. The known Roman villas in Staffordshire are generally located close to Roman roads³¹, although no villa sites have been identified from the study area.
- 3.3.2 The study area is located within the hinterland of the Roman town of Wall, located 3km to the west, and the Roman road of Watling Street (DHW138) traverses the northern end of the study area. The invading Roman army is thought to have reached the study area and surrounding landscape by AD 48, with the earliest military activity at Wall, a marching camp, dated to AD 50³². A fortress was probably established in the early AD 50s and abandoned at the end of that decade. Subsequent forts lay on higher ground to the north with the last fort abandoned in the late 2nd century by which time the civilian settlement was developing at Wall³³.
- 3.3.3 The wider landscape surrounding the study area contained a number of Roman forts and settlements as well as Wall, including Mancetter in north Warwickshire, Metchley, Greensforge and Rocester. These sites were linked by a network of roads³⁴. It is thought that activity during the Romano-British period linked to Wall could therefore have been widely dispersed across the landscape, including as far as the study area³⁵.

²² Ibid. 511.

²³ Ibid. 512.

²⁴ Ibid. 514.

²⁵ Cramp, K. (2006) *Excavations on the A5 Weeford to Fazeley Road Improvement Scheme, Staffordshire*. Oxford Archaeology: Oxford.

²⁶ Cramp, K. and Brown, R. (2008) Excavations on the A5 Weeford to Fazeley Road Improvement Scheme, Staffordshire. *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological Society*, 42, pp. 1-30.

²⁷ Ibid. 26.

²⁸ Wessex Archaeology 23 May 2013 Appendix 4

²⁹ Esmonde Cleary, S. (2011) The Romano-British period: an assessment. In: Watt, S., ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp.127-147.

³⁰ Powell et al 2008, 521.

³¹ Ibid. 532.

³² Powell et al 2008, 516.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid. 516.

³⁵ Ibid., 518.

- 3.3.4 Evidence recovered from the M6 Toll excavations indicates declining levels of woodland and an increase in arable agriculture during the Romano-British period³⁶. Industrial and manufacturing activities within the hinterland of Wall included pottery production, stone extraction and small-scale textile production³⁷ although no evidence of these industries has been recovered from the study area.
- 3.3.5 Evidence of Roman field systems and boundaries were excavated prior to the construction of the A5 Weeford to Fazeley Improvement Scheme dated to the Romano-British period. Features excavated included pits, postholes, ditches and stakeholes³⁸ and may relate to a nearby settlement, possibly lying just to the west of the study area³⁹.
- 3.3.6 A number of crop mark sites (DHW125, DHW139, DHW143, DHW146) are likely to be Romano-British in date; these are concentrated at the northern end of the study area, to the north of Hints near to Watling Street.

3.4 Early medieval AD410-1066

- 3.4.1 The early medieval or Anglo-Saxon period (AD410-1066) is one of the least visible periods archaeologically, with no physical evidence dating to the period known in the study area, and the nearest substantial rural settlement evidence coming from Catholme, 10km north northeast of the study area⁴⁰. Here settlement consisted of several phases of buildings including individual farmhouses and their associated ancillary buildings which were established in the mid to late Anglo-Saxon period but went out of use between the 9th and 13th centuries⁴¹.
- 3.4.2 Tamworth, 5km east of the study area, was an important Mercian royal vill by the 8th century⁴² while Lichfield, 3 km to the north northwest, was a diocesan centre by that time⁴³. Drayton Bassett, Hints and Weeford are all listed in the Domesday Book of 1086, indicating there may have been earlier settlements in these areas. The name Drayton comes from the Old English "dræg" and "tūn", meaning a portage, drag or slip-way associated with an enclosure or farmstead⁴⁴. The village was held by the Bassett family from the 12th century. Hints is thought to derive from the Welsh "hynt" meaning road, while Weeford derives from the Old English "wēoh" meaning "holy" and "ford" meaning ford or crossing⁴⁵. It is thought that the A5 represented the boundary between Scandinavian settlers to the north and Anglo-Saxon settlers to the south, with little evidence of Scandinavian place names south of the road⁴⁶.
- 3.4.3 The early medieval landscape is considered to be characterised by regenerated woodland with a dispersed settlement pattern. South and east Staffordshire in the

³⁶ Ibid. 523.

³⁷ Ibid. 524-525.

³⁸ Cramp and Brown 2008, 27.

³⁹ Cramp 2006.

⁴⁰ Losco-Bradley, S. and Kinseley, G. (2002) *Catholme, An Anglo-Saxon Settlement on the Trent Gravels in Staffordshire*. English Heritage: London.

⁴¹ Hooke, D. (2011) The Post-Roman and the early medieval periods in the West Midlands: a potential archaeological agenda. In: Watt, S., ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp.149-72.

⁴² Ibid. 157.

⁴³ Ibid. 161.

⁴⁴ www.nottingham.ac.uk/ins

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Earthworks Archaeology (1995) *Bourne Brook, Hints, Staffordshire, and Archaeological Survey*. Unpublished Client Report. Earthworks Archaeology: Ewloe.

early medieval period is thought to have had a mixture of irregular field systems and enclosed crofts and champion field systems⁴⁷. However, centuries of subsequent cultivation and developments have removed any trace of these early field systems within the study area. Settlements may have risen and declined frequently, shifting to take advantage of better land or resources⁴⁸.

- 3.4.4 Excavations in advance of the M6 Toll west of the study area did not reveal any substantial evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement, with only a small number of pottery sherds dating to this period being recovered⁴⁹. Excavations did suggest, however, that the Roman road Watling Street was maintained through the early medieval and even into the medieval period.
- 3.4.5 No archaeological assets dating specifically to the early medieval period are known from the study area and evidence dating from this period is extremely rare throughout the country. Anglo-Saxon burials are one of the dominant site types from this period, however, no examples of such are known from the study area so we know nothing of the local population, their society or their economy during this period.

3.5 Medieval AD1066-1540

- 3.5.1 Considerable changes took place within and surrounding the study area during the medieval period, including the development of a new political and social order, the expansion of settlement, growing commercialisation and the expansion and development of the Church⁵⁰. Huge population increases occurred within the wider landscape between the 12th and 14th centuries, with a possible increase of as much as 933% during this time in the region⁵¹.
- 3.5.2 The Bourne Brook at Hints and Weeford marked the boundary between Royal Cannock Forest to the north and Sutton Chase to the south⁵². Cannock Forest was established by William the Conqueror, while Sutton Chase was established in 1126 as a hunting reserve of the Earls of Warwick⁵³.
- 3.5.3 The study area would most likely have been wooded during the medieval period, with dispersed settlement throughout⁵⁴. A main feature of the medieval landscape of the study area was parkland, with medieval parks known at Drayton Bassett (Shirall Deer Park DHW106 and Drayton Deer Park DHW105) and Hints (Bangley Deer Park DHW114). Emparking began in England after the Norman Conquest, with most principal Royal parks created by 1200, and those of larger landowners between 1200 and 1350⁵⁵. Early parks were often created on unimproved land on the edges of

⁴⁷ Roberts, B.K. (1973) Field Systems of the West Midlands. In: Baker, A.R.H. and Butlin, R.A., eds., *Field Systems of the British Isles*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, pp. 195-205.

⁴⁸ Taylor, C. (1983) *Village and Farmstead: A History of Rural Settlement in England*. G. Philip: London.

⁴⁹ Powell et al 2008, 546.

⁵⁰ Hunt, J. (2011) The Medieval period. In: Watt, S., ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 173-210.

⁵¹ Powell et al 2008, 549.

⁵² West Yorkshire Archaeology Service (1997) *Hopwas Quarry Extension Desk-based Assessment*. Unpublished Client Report.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Powell et al 2008, 546.

⁵⁵ Hodder, M. (1988) Medieval parks in Drayton Bassett, Shenstone and Weeford (Staffordshire). *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological Society*, 30, pp. 39-52.

manors, and late parks (those created after 1350) have been found to have been created on previously cultivated land⁵⁶.

- 3.5.4 Drayton Park (DHW105) was created in the early 13th century, with a 16th century map showing the park to be an oval area of c. 692 acres. The park was disparked in the 18th century⁵⁷. Bangle Park (DHW114) at Drayton Bassett was established in the 15th century and is known from documentary sources. Shirrall Park and Drayton Park are both shown on Yates Map of Staffordshire of 1775 but the scale of the map does not allow for the location of the exact park boundaries. Frequently the remains of medieval parks can be discerned from earthwork remains, including boundary banks and ditches, however, no such features have currently been identified at any of the parks within the study area. It is possible that features identified in geophysical survey may represent features associated with Shirrall Park (survey by Wessex Archaeology 23 May 2013 reference Appendix 4).
- 3.5.5 Drayton Bassett, Hints (DHW360) and Weeford (DHW137) are listed in the Domesday Book. Drayton Bassett, a royal manor, is recorded as a medium sized settlement of 20 households, valued at £4 and under the lordship of King William. Two mills are recorded at the village, as well as meadowland and woodland. Hints and Weeford are both recorded as very small settlements of 5.5 households in the manor of Lichfield, with mills also recorded at both settlements (DHW126). A moated site (DHW136) at Weeford and the site of a medieval hall at Hints (DHW120), also provide evidence of the medieval occupation of the landscape. A deserted settlement is thought to be located somewhere within Packington Hall Park (DHW046).
- 3.5.6 The location of the study area, between the medieval centres of Lichfield and Tamworth, close to the Staffordshire/Warwickshire border, may have influenced the amount of industrial activity in the area, including the possibility of a pottery production centre close by^{58, 59}. The convenience of Watling Street would also have played a part in medieval trade and industry. The division between agriculture and industry was not a sharp one in the medieval period, with most crafts located at scattered sites, most probably in or near woodland settings⁶⁰. Small amounts of medieval pottery have been recovered from both Drayton Bassett and Weeford, and a concentration of metal finds has been retrieved from Brook Farm (DHW167).
- 3.5.7 The archaeology of the study area in this period can therefore be characterised as one of dispersed settlement and hamlets within a wooded landscape, systematically being assarted with new tracts of land exploited for agricultural purposes. Scattered areas of ridge and furrow cultivation are seen within the study area, and while these have not been definitively dated to the medieval period, they may represent the small scale cultivation associated with dispersed settlements. Aerial photography provides crop mark evidence of small scale field systems at Brockhurst (DHW116), Packington Moor Farm (DHW147), north and west of Hints (DHW132, DHW118), at Gallows Brook and at Trickle Coppice (DHW104, DHW103), which support this interpretation of the landscape.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Hodder 1988, 40-41.

⁵⁸ Hunt, 2011.

⁵⁹ Powell et al, 2008, 548.

⁶⁰ Hunt 2011, 190.

3.6 Post medieval AD1540-1901

- 3.6.1 The post-medieval period saw dramatic changes in the landscape of the study area, primarily as a result of the Enclosure Acts and Commons Acts of 1773 to 1882, which enclosed much of the landscape within large farmed estates. The fields that were created as a result of the Enclosure Acts are the principle feature of the landscape of the study area during the 19th and into the 20th centuries.
- 3.6.2 By 1875, when the First Edition OS maps were published, the study area was completely enclosed, with fields and woodlands dominating the landscape, punctuated by farmsteads, often with a courtyard plan and with associated buildings, many of which survive today. Farms on late 19th and early 20th century maps are Ingley Hill Farm (DHWo42), Packington Farm (DHWo44), Horsley Brook Farm (DHWo45), Buck's Head Farm (DHWo57), Blackbrook Farm (DHWo60), Hill Farm (DHWo69), Great Bangley Farm (DHW260), Oak Farm (DHW264) and Shirral Hall (DHW268). The great houses which controlled land ownership of much of the area's farm land lie at the outermost edges of the study area, represented in the landscape today by surviving 18th and early 19th century buildings and landscapes at Packington Hall (DHWo49), park boundaries of the Middleton estate (DHW148), Hints Hall Park and Lodge (DHW193, DHW233), Canwell Park (DHW194), and Swinfen Hall and Park (DHW192). Other buildings in the landscape included workers cottages (DHW215, DHW236, DHW231).
- 3.6.3 The development of the south Staffordshire coalfields in the 16th century and the industrial revolution was the second most significant impact on the English landscape in the post-medieval period. Prior to large-scale coal mining in the region, charcoal had been the primary fuel for household fires and metal working forges. Availability of charcoal would have been an important factor in the development of local iron working, and the First Edition OS maps records the location of managed woodland at Shirral Coppice in the far south of the study area. Coppice woodland provided a regular supply of relatively quick growing, straight timber which was the primary source of wood for the charcoal making industry. Despite the intensive industrialisation of Birmingham and Black Country region to the west, the study area during the post-medieval period remains largely an agricultural one, with small estates, woodland and localised industry dominating the landscape.
- 3.6.4 Metal working has a long history in the region, evidenced by forges recorded by the HER to the west (DHW126) and east (DHW121) of Hints dating to the 16th century. The forge to the east of Hints (DHW121) is mapped on the First Edition OS. No buildings associated with either the forge or the mill to the west of Hints survived to be mapped in the late 19th century. The Victoria County History (VCH) records the Hints forge as being charcoal fuelled (although which one is unclear), and rated at 120 tons bar iron capacity per annum in 1592⁶¹.
- 3.6.5 A slitting mill (DHW134) dating to the 17th and 18th centuries was located to the south-east of Weeford on the Brook. It has been postured that the slitting mill at Weeford operated in conjunction with the hammer mill and forge downstream at Hints⁶². No

⁶¹ Earthworks Archaeology 1995.

⁶² Ibid.

indication of a slitting mill or any kind of metal working is recorded to the south east of Weeford in the First Edition OS mapping, although Millditch Wood (DHW133), marked on this map, may indicate an earlier mill site in the vicinity. A smithy is mapped to the north west of Weeford, indicating the importance of metal working to the local economy along the Black-Bourne Brook in the post-medieval period. Two bicycle manufacturers are recorded in the early 20th century Census records for Fazeley, reflecting the continuation of metal working skills in the region⁶³.

- 3.6.6 Other small scale industry is indicated within the study area by the presence of numerous old marl and clay pits likely to have been associated with brick manufacture. An area of trees to the north west of Weeford, just outside the study area, is named Brickkiln Covert on the First Edition OS maps, confirming this as a local industry. The site is directly associated with abandoned clay pits. It is likely that the brick works would also have drawn on the supplies of charcoal within the region.
- 3.6.7 Advancing technology, in conjunction with and as a result of improving industrial processes and techniques enabled improvements in transport communications, firstly with the construction of canal system in the 18th century and followed by the railway in the 19th century. The canal clips the study area in Drayton Bassett where the canal bridge is listed Grade II (DHW072), but otherwise the study area retained its rural character with no major new infrastructure.
- 3.6.8 The Bourne Brook (also known as the Black Brook upstream to the west, within the study area) provided water power to a number of mills in Fazeley including the Old Mill, the New Mill, Bonehill Bleachworks and a mill on the site of the Bonehill Flourmill⁶⁴.
- 3.6.9 In summary, the post-medieval period is well represented within the study area in the form of small scale industrial remains, land management features and agricultural farms and fields. The Black-Bourne Brook was a focus for local manufacturing industries with forges and mills recorded along its length. The settlements within the study area developed significantly during this time, and the deforestation and enclosure of the landscape was undertaken. The majority of the landscape was used for agriculture with arable fields dominating to the north and south and woodland characterising the Hints Hills.

3.7 20th century/modern AD1901-present

- 3.7.1 The character of the landscape in the pre-war and post-war periods has remained predominantly unchanged, with no major infrastructural or industrial developments affecting the study area in the last century with the exception of the A5 road which crosses the study area north of Hints. Arable agriculture still dominates much of the landscape. A number of houses and farms have been built since 1900, particularly on Flat's Lane, Roman Road, Bangley Lane, Brockhurst Lane and Bangley Lane.

⁶³ Stratton, M and Trinder, B. (1993) *Fazeley: An Evaluation of a Midlands Industrial Landscape*. Unpublished Client Report.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

4 Built heritage

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section provides baseline information relating to all built heritage assets within the land required for the construction of the Proposed Scheme, a 500m study area and within 2km of the centreline. The section provides the following information:

- broad overview of the character and form of the settlement pattern and key assets within 2km of the Proposed Scheme;
- detailed descriptions of all built heritage assets wholly or partially within the land required for the construction of the Proposed Scheme;
- detailed descriptions of key built heritage assets within the 500m study area; and
- descriptions of other key designated built heritage assets that lie outside of the 500m study area but within 2km of the centreline.

4.1.2 Further information on these and other built heritage assets can be found in Appendix CH-001-021.

4.2 Overview of settlement character and key assets

General

4.2.1 The present day settlement of the study area is predominantly 18th century in form and character, with the built environment reflecting the agricultural nature of the area.

4.2.2 There are only two areas of denser and older settlement in the study area, within the medieval villages of Hints (DHW360) and Weeford (DHW137) which lie south of the A5 within the Hints Hills and close to the Black-Bourne Brook. The villages are 18th and 19th century in character – the medieval cores of the villages do not survive in any substantial visible form.

4.2.3 The settlement pattern is otherwise dispersed with a number of designated and undesignated farmsteads in the study area. Designated buildings are Buck's Head Farm DHW057 (outbuildings listed Grade II), Hill Farm DHW069 (listed Grade II), Ingley Hill Farm DHW042, (listed Grade II), Horsley Brook Farm DHW045 (listed Grade II), all of which date to the 18th century. Other large farms in the study area of slightly later date are Packington Hall Farm (DHW044), Blackbrook Farm (DHW060), Hill Farm (DHW069), Great Bangley Farm (DHW260), Oak Farm (DHW264) and Shirrall Hall Farm (DHW268).

4.2.4 The landscape south of Hints contains some evidence of former industrial buildings – none of which survive upstanding today. A forge and a mill at Hints which appear on early maps were demolished before 1847.

4.2.5 Also just within the boundaries of the study area are the grounds and landscaped parks of some grand houses. These are also 18th century in date. The former extent of the grounds of Packington Hall (DHW049) lies just south of Whittington Heath, the

park boundaries of the Middleton estate (DHW148) are now only demarcated by extant hedgerows. The former boundary of Hints Hall Park and its Lodge (DHW193, DHW233) are within the CCB. Swinfen Park (DHW192) contains the Grade II* listed former hall, now a hotel. The north-western grounds of the hall have been redeveloped as a youth prison, although still intact historic parkland beyond includes ponds, plantations and boundary belts. The hall faces northeast, overlooking Swinfen Lake to Bog Wood plantation.

Built Heritage assets within the land required for the construction of the Proposed Scheme

Buck's Head Farm (DHW057)

- 4.2.6 Buck's Head Farm (DHW057) is an 18th century farm complex, comprising a farmhouse and outbuildings. The farmhouse has been much altered in the 19th and 20th centuries and is not listed. The 18th century L-shaped range of outbuildings including a barn and former smithy is listed Grade II. There are a further four historic buildings within the complex predating 1888 and 3 predating 1902. The buildings together form a good group around a multi-courtyard plan. Buck's Head Farm is situated on a west facing slope between Watling Street and the A5, with limited vegetation to both north and south. The setting of the farm, which would have been a rural 18th century fieldscape with far ranging views to the north, east and west until the 20th century, has been significantly altered in terms of its views, its connection to its farmland and with increased noise since the construction of the A5 road. Even so, the farm retains valuable character as a group of farm buildings, representative of the main period of historic landscape development in this study area.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.2.7 The significance of the asset lies in its built fabric, in its continued agricultural use, and in the group value of the farm buildings which provide some context (despite many being later in date) to the listed barn and smithy. The setting of the farm in terms of its landscape does not contribute substantially to its significance, altered as it is with the A5 to the north. The Access to the farm is still from Watling Street and there is a sense of historic character to the immediate surrounds of the farm that can still be appreciated on the approach from the road. There is already noticeable noise around the farm.

Packington Moor Farm (DHW214)

- 4.2.8 Packington Moor Farm (DHW214) is a 19th century courtyard plan farmstead with a detached farmhouse. Most of the original farm buildings have been converted for commercial use, including a wedding venue, shop and café. The Dutch barns and modern sheds to north and west are still an operational farm. To the northeast and east of the farm yard stables, a threshing barn and cow house are extant. There are also two detached cart sheds and workers cottages (converted for accommodation). The farm is in a roughly level and open position with long distance views to the south across its historic farmland. Set within fields, the seclusion of the farm is enhanced by a long private drive.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.2.9 The significance of the asset lies in its built fabric and in the group value of the buildings that make up the complex, in particular the relationship between the farmhouse and its courtyard setting. The landscape setting of the farm does contribute to its significance, in terms of its secluded position, its original tree-lined drive and surrounding post medieval fields which provide a contemporary context for the buildings. The farm's historic location can be well appreciated with views unobstructed in every direction and quiet surrounds.

Barn Cottage (DHW263)

- 4.2.10 Barn Cottage (DHW263) comprises the remaining parts of a mid-19th century loose courtyard farmstead with a detached two-storey cottage (with modern extensions) and an L-shaped range of outbuildings comprising a threshing barn and shelter shed. The barn may predate the farmhouse and could be of 18th century date. Barn Cottage is set within 18th century fields with open views to the east and west.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.2.11 The significance of the asset lies in its remaining fabric, but also in the character of its setting and surrounding landscape context. The cottage is surrounded by post medieval fields and forms an attractive enclosed group which can be appreciated from the lane. Views are to the lane and to open countryside. The setting of the cottage is quiet.

Mill House and White House Farm (DHW256)

- 4.2.12 Mill House and White House Farm (DHW256) together make up what was an early to mid-20th century planned farmstead with a farmhouse and a three-sided complex of stable buildings. The buildings are of limited architectural merit but the complex is of some historic group value as one of a closely dated dispersed group of farmsteads in an open field setting along Brockhurst Lane, Bangley Lane, and Bangley Lane.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.2.13 The setting of the asset is one of the most important aspects of its significance – the surrounding post medieval fieldscape and group value of the buildings in nearby lanes, together with this asset provide the historic character of this part of the study area. The surrounding area is quiet.

Moor Cottages (DHW215)

- 4.2.14 Moor Cottages (DHW215) is a 19th century workers cottage on Knox's Grave Lane divided into two dwellings with modern extensions. The cottages have views out over agricultural land.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.2.15 The setting of the asset is one of the most important aspects of its significance – the surrounding post medieval fieldscape and group value of the buildings in nearby lanes, together with this asset provide the historic character of this part of the study area. The surrounding area is quiet.

Houses on Flats Lane (DHW216, DHW217)

- 4.2.16 Houses on Flats Lane (DHW216, DHW217) are early 20th century semis with gabled bays. They are of limited architectural merit, but of historic interest as a dispersed group of similar date and style forming a consistent aesthetic along Watling Street and Flats Lane. The buildings have no noticeable agricultural history. They are in an open setting with views across agricultural land.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.2.17 The setting of the asset is one of the most important aspects of its significance – the surrounding post medieval fieldscape and group value of the buildings in nearby lanes, together with this asset provide the historic character of this part of the study area. The surrounding area is quiet.

The Lodge (DHW233)

- 4.2.18 The Lodge DHW233 is the former Lodge of Hints Hall. It dates to the late 19th century with modern alteration and renovation.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.2.19 The setting of the Lodge is key to its significance – both in its location and aspect. It stands on Watling Street at the end of the northern drive to Hints Hall. Its aspect is towards Watling Street and down the track, the former driveway, towards Hints. The building is quite secluded, retaining its sense of historic isolation at the end of the driveway, with open fields on all sides. It is noisy, with Watling Street directly in front of it.

South Lodge (DHW205)

- 4.2.20 South Lodge DHW205 is a brick-built 19th century cottage located at the end of a former driveway to Freeford Manor. The principal façade of the building looks southeast onto the Tamworth road. The former driveway is no longer extant.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.2.21 The significance of the Lodge lies in its historic context as part of the Freeford Estate. The setting of the Lodge has been much altered since its construction, however, with the approaches to Freeford Manor now out of use and the development of the Tamworth Road into a busy A-road, creating significant noise. Views to the south are screened by a hedge.

The Whittington Arms (DHW204)

- 4.2.22 The Whittington Arms (DHW204) is historically accessed from the old Tamworth Road with open views to the south and west. A building on the site called 'Heath View' can be seen on 1880s mapping, suggesting that the building started life as a private residence. It is in red brick with timber gables and porch.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.2.23 The significance of the pub is in its late 19th/early 20th century character and in its location on the Tamworth Road – probably as a house or public house, possibly connected with the Whittington barracks or golf course. The open field views to the south do not contribute to its significance, as it faces the road and backs onto a

hedged parking area and garden. The surroundings are noisy, with the A51 passing directly in front.

4.3 Key built heritage assets within 500m of the land required for the construction of the Proposed Scheme

Hill Farmhouse (DHWo6g)

- 4.3.1 Hill Farmhouse DHWo6g is listed Grade II. It is of late 18th century date with 19th century alterations. The farmhouse is situated to the north of its associated farm buildings, overlooking adjacent gardens with open fields beyond. Potential views to the south and west of the farmhouse area obscured by existing development, although there are open views to the south from the edge of the farm complex.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.2 The location of the asset on the top of a hill, overlooking surrounding countryside is an important factor in its significance, in addition to its context as part of a still working farm. Originally isolated from other development, the farm would have stood out as a landmark to passers-by and views from the farm would have been possible to agricultural land on all sides. Now the entrance to the farm is obscured by modern development and views are primarily to the north and east towards the Bourne Brook.

Hints Village (DHW36o)

- 4.3.3 Hints Village (DHW36o) is a designated conservation area taking in the historic core of the village of Hints, including Hints Manor, St Bartholomew's Church, the grounds of Hints Old Hall and a former mill pond to the northwest. The village of Hints is positioned on a south facing slope, between Black Brook and Watling Street, overlooking hills fields and woodland. Hints was recorded as one of 15 settlements under the Manor of Lichfield in the Domesday Book of 1086. Hints Manor is listed (Grade II) as is the Church of St. Bartholomew (Grade II). The Manor is situated above School Lane with views out over Hints to the south and southwest to open fields and dispersed areas of woodland. The parish church was built in 1882-3 by John Oldrid Scott for Mr Chadwick, a cotton merchant. There are a number of other listed buildings within the village, of 19th century date, although elements of earlier post-medieval buildings remain. A cross and two memorials (also Grade II) lie in the churchyard. A number of 19th century buildings of local interest are located in School Lane: School House, Rose Cottage, Hints Old Hall, Chadwick House, The Old Coach House, Lambourne House, The Villa, Woodview, Hints Hall and Stables.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.4 The main significance of the conservation area is considered to be its sense of remoteness, seclusion and tranquillity. Due to the narrow roads through the village, and the height of hedgerows and trees adjacent to them, there are only a few views into and out of the conservation area. The most significant view is from Watling Street, looking south down School Lane where the irregular roofline of the village interspersed with trees is set against the backdrop of woodland, fields along Gorsey Hill. Other views from Brockhurst Lane take in the wooded margin along the southern edge of the conservation area, whilst views looking southeast along School Lane within the village look out towards Roundhill Wood. Occasional glimpses of the belfry

of the Church of St Bartholomew can be seen from the east through breaks in hedgerows. The church is situated on raised land in the centre of Hints. Principally viewed from the east, the rising topography screens views beyond it from Church Lane. Views west from within the site are partially obscured by tree cover, although the woods along the Hints Hills are visible.

Weeford village (DHW137)

- 4.3.5 Weeford village (DHW137) is also recorded as one of 15 settlements under the Manor of Lichfield in the Domesday Book of 1086. The parish church in the centre of the village is listed Grade II and built in 1802. Other buildings date to the nineteenth century. In the village there are two cartsheds (Grade II) within Weeford House Farm, which also includes 2 other listed buildings and 2 non-designated historic buildings predating 1884. The farm is screened by woodland and mature trees along the brook. There are also two stables, both (Grade II). Also in Weeford, the Old Schoolhouse is of some local historic interest – a late 19th century school, now a public house, with views across the Black-Bourne Brook valley towards the south and southeast.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.6 The setting of the village is important to its significance – the centre of the village is situated in a low lying valley beside the Black-Bourne Brook with limited views looking out of the valley to the west and east. Views east are largely screened by woodland and mature trees along the brook. The bell tower of the church is visible from Watling Street to the northwest, but is largely screened from views to the north and east by Church Wood. The village therefore has a sense of enclosure and isolation from more modern development, and is an important surviving feature of the post medieval landscape of the study area.

Ingle Hill Farm (DHWo42)

- 4.3.7 Ingle Hill Farm DHWo42 was part of the Swinfen Hall estate, and not named separately on First Edition OS maps. It is of late 18th century date with 19th and 20th century alterations. The farmhouse (listed Grade II) lies to the south of its associated farm complex with gardens to the east and south enclosed with hedges and tree cover. The barn (listed Grade II) is late 18th century with early 19th century additions, similar to its counterpart at Horsley Brook Farm. The barn is situated at the western side of the farm complex with open views out to the south and west. There are also four non-designated historic buildings on the site, two predating 1884, one predating 1902 and one predating 1922.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.8 The significance of the buildings lies in their fabric, and in the group value of contemporary and other associated buildings within the complex. However setting does make a contribution to significance – the farm was originally set within the Swinfen Hall Estate farmlands. The farm still looks out onto open farmland of post medieval date, and historic access is from the direction of Swinfen Hall. Views to the east and north are screened by buildings within the complex and trees surrounding the gardens of the farmhouse. Views to the south are to the contemporary Horsley Brook Farm, as they would have been in the 18th century. The sense from the surrounding fields and trackways is one of quietness and space.

Horsley Brook Farm (DHWO45)

- 4.3.9 Horsley Brook Farm DHWO45 contains four listed buildings (all Grade II): the farmhouse, granary and cartshed, hackney stable and smithy, and the barn. Like its counterpart at Ingley Hill Farm, it was part of the Swinfen Hall estate and not named separately on First Edition OS maps. It is of late 18th century date with 19th and 20th century alterations. The complex also contains one non-designated historic building predating 1924. The farmhouse is detached from the farm buildings with a garden to the south and paddock to the southeast.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.10 The significance of the buildings lies in their fabric, and in the group value of contemporary and other associated buildings within the complex. However setting does make a contribution to significance – the farm was originally set within the Swinfen Hall Estate farmlands. The farm still looks out onto open farmland of post medieval date to the west and south, and historic access is from the direction of Swinfen Hall. The principal facade of the farm house faces east with views partially screened by tree cover. Views to the north are to the contemporary Horsley Book Farm, as they would have been in the 18th century. The sense from the surrounding fields and trackways is one of quietness and space.

The Malt house at Packington Hall Farm (DHWO44)

- 4.3.11 The Malt house at Packington Hall Farm (DHWO44) c.1840 is also listed Grade II. The building is of red brick with a plain tile roof, and is situated on the western side of the associated complex of Packington Hall Farm. The farm is set back from the road, surrounded to the east, south and west by agricultural land with areas of woodland. Views to the west are fully screened by existing development and tree cover.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.12 The significance of the asset lies in its association with the farm and in its rural setting. The farm is quiet and main views are to the west.

4.4 Key designated built heritage assets within 2km of the centreline

- 4.4.1 No designated assets or their settings within 2km of the centreline will be affected by the Proposed Scheme.

5 Historic map regression

- 5.1.1 The analysis of the cartographic evidence for the study area has been integrated within the archaeological and historical baseline narrative (Sections 4.6-4.8 above).

6 Historic landscape

6.1 Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 6.1.1 Overall, this study area can be divided into two areas of historic landscape: Sutton Chase in the southern part, with smaller rectilinear fields and landscape features associated with deer parks, hunting and the laws and customs of the Chase; and the northern part of the study area, with later 18th century halls and landscaped gardens, associated with large enclosed fields of relatively recent date. These areas are both represented by the 'Royal Forest of Cannock' character area in Staffordshire County Council's Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)⁶⁵.
- 6.1.2 In the centre of the study area, near Hints, the landscape of small, rectilinear fields is interspersed with broad-leaved woodlands. Place-names such as Bangle, Brockhurst, Botley, Holt, and Leasow attest to a historically wooded. Between Brockhurst Farm and Weeford Park lies Stockfields, supporting the likelihood that rather than full woodland, the area was wood-pasture.
- 6.1.3 The northern boundary of the Sutton Chase is the Bourne or Black Brook. From there, north Whittington Heath, the field morphology changes to planned enclosure, large rectilinear and very large post-war field HLC types. The change in enclosure patterns is likely related to the differences in historic uses of the land. Whereas the Sutton Chase area of the CFA was historically under the control of the Earls of Warwick who restricted development of some types of enclosures and the uses of other parts of the land, the parts of the CFA outside of the Chase were under different influences.
- 6.1.4 Much of southeast Staffordshire, including the Weeford and Hints parishes outside the boundaries of Sutton Chase, were part of the large Episcopal estate of Lichfield from before Domesday. The influence of the nearby chase is seen in place-names close to its boundary: Buck's Head Farm and Cottages and Hare Park Wood reflect the importance of hunting in the area, if not in Sutton Chase, then in the larger Cannock Forest. Hare Park Wood, along with Mascote, Broom and Gorse coverts near Swinfen Hall suggest later fashions for hunting, with coverts being associated with fox hunting (see above). Additional place-name evidence supports the idea that this area, like that of the south in Sutton Chase, valued its woodland. The parish name of Swinfen further suggests a landscape of wood-pasture, as swine were often fed on woodland products; equally, it could refer to the practice of moving herds of swine to waste land or common during harvest, to prevent them from eating the crops in the fields.
- 6.1.5 Much of this part of the study area was considered waste historically – common land used for rough grazing. As many areas of common and waste do, the field patterns attest to a late enclosure. At the corner of Tamworth Road and Jerry's Lane is an area known as Botany Bay, the name being assigned to the area long before the construction of the post-war houses that now exist there. The name Botany Bay is given to either the junction itself, or the area surrounding it, from at least the time of the tithe map in 1840/1. Such names were commonly given to places during the era of

⁶⁵ http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/info/856/local_plan/1014/evidence_base/10.

parliamentary enclosure, reflecting the contemporary explorations being made around the world as well as the perceived distance of the field from the home farm.

- 6.1.6 The size and scale of the fields, however, doesn't mean there is little time-depth in the area. Watling Street, the Roman Road, runs a course from northwest to southeast across the land required to construct the Proposed Scheme, on the south side of the A5. Hedgerows that follow the parish boundaries may be of some antiquity and retain their boundary ditches and/or banks. The roads called Tamworth Lane/Knox's Grave Lane and Flats Lane/Jerry's Lane are shown as major routes on the tithe maps and may also be of some antiquity.
- 6.1.7 An east/west trackway appears to link Tamworth with Wall and may continue to the northwest to Cannock Chase. Between its junction with Flats Lane/ Jerry's Lane and Tamworth, the route crosses a quarry on the site of the former Hints Common and skirts around Hopwas Hays Wood before reaching the River Tame. A north/south trackway runs from south of Weeford in Sutton Chase north to Whittington. North of the A51 at Whittington Barracks, it is called Common Lane. As a whole, these lanes may be considered part of a network for moving cattle between grazing areas.
- 6.1.8 An unnamed track runs from Sutton Chase to Freeford Home Farm and Freeford Manor and intersects both Knox's Grave Lane and Jerry's Lane. The Freeford estate has a long history of cattle farming, with a flock of over 100 sheep being mentioned in the 15th century. By 1750, the number of sheep on the estate was over 490. Crop marks appear on aerial photos along all of these trackways, with late prehistoric to Roman dates assigned to them in the Staffordshire (HER), indicating the roads may be considerably older than written evidence suggests.
- 6.1.9 One area of defined historic landscape character within the study area has been identified as an asset (DHW400). This is an area of parliamentary enclosure at Botany Bay, just south of Whittington Heath. It is a coherent and legible example of a relatively rare landscape type for the County – planned enclosure – and is a good example of late enclosure by Parliamentary Act. The Act to enclose this part of Staffordshire was passed in 1879, and is probably related to the abolishment of commoners' rights on Whittington Heath by the War Department in 1877. The field patterns represent a classic Parliamentary-type enclosure, with large fields divided by ruler-straight lines at right angles. The settlement called 'Botany Bay' reflects the tradition of naming fields located far from settlements after exotic and far-away locations and suggests the naming of the fields occurred after Cook's discovery and naming of Botany Bay in Australia in the late 18th century.

6.2 Historic parks and gardens

- 6.2.1 There are no Grade I, II* or II registered parks and gardens within 2km of the area of land take. However, there are several undesignated parks other designed landscapes within the study area.
- 6.2.2 The southern part of this study area contains the former extents of three late-medieval deer parks: Shirrall Park, Drayton Park and Bangle Park. The study area fell within the historic boundaries of Sutton Chase, where the Earls of Warwick held sole hunting rights and land-use would have been regulated to preserve the necessary landscape for hunting.

- 6.2.3 The oldest of these deer parks appears to be Drayton Park, first mentioned in 1203. The adjacent parks are of a later date: Bangley is first mentioned as a close in 1397, but not as a park until the late 15th century. Similarly, Shirrall Park is not mentioned until the 15th century. Several features of Shirrall Park have been recorded in the Staffordshire HER, including boundary banks and the remains of a dam in Loddy Wood. Crop marks identified in aerial photos within Drayton Park may reflect pre-park land use. Patchy woodland throughout the southern part of the study area reflects a more wooded past landscape, but it is unlikely the area was heavily wooded at any point. Much of it may have been considered waste land, unsuitable for agricultural use, and expanded into parkland after the population declines of the late 14th and 15th centuries.
- 6.2.4 In addition to the parkland landscapes there is also a monastic landscape in the south of the study area. Canwell Priory was established around 1140 on land adjacent to Bangley Park. A boundary ditch along the parish boundary east of the fishpond likely relates to the parish boundary and not the deer park, as it is mentioned in the Priory's charter of 1142. The nearby Three Parish Wood presents an anomaly in the landscape, as there are only two parishes that meet at the location. However, tithe maps of Drayton Bassett and Hints show the 'Canwell Parish' adjoining Drayton Bassett and Hints, with the meeting point of the three at Three Parish Wood. Though Canwell Priory was established in Hints Parish, it was an extra-parochial area until 1858, and abolished completely in 1934. At some point it became known as a parish, providing the third parish for Three Parish Wood and retaining the label on adjacent tithe maps of the 1840s. The priory was dissolved in 1525, when it was handed over to Cardinal Wolsey to assist in his establishment of Cardinal College, Oxford (now Christ Church College). The fishponds near the priory are additional reminders in the current landscape of the past monastic use of the land.
- 6.2.5 The 18th century, Grade II* listed Swinfen Hall is set within parkland, with landscape gardens, belts of woodland and a private deer park. Also within the bounds of the historic hamlet of Swinfen is Swinfen Hall Youth Custody Centre, a Category C men's prison and young offenders institute, opened in 1983. The avenue of trees that led from the London Road to the front of Swinfen Hall has lost its connectivity to the hall due to the construction of the prison; the entrance to the hall (now a hotel) is now accessed from the road by Home Farm. The historic fabric of Swinfen Hall's landscape is seen in the belts of woodland, probably first developed for hunting, with names of Broom Covert and Gorse Covert. The 'Belts' that form and define the southeast boundary of the parkland, reflect late 18th and early 19th century fashions in parkland design.
- 6.2.6 East of Swinfen Hall is Packington Hall, where earthworks have been interpreted as a potential deserted medieval village. The original Packington Hall (now called Packington Hall Works) was once also surrounded by designed landscape: the 1903 OS map shows an avenue of trees leading to the hall, as well as numerous other landscape features. None of these survive. Packington Hall Farm, to the west of the original manor house, does have extensively designed landscapes to the south and west of the property, but this is not shown on historic maps and the date of the landscaping is unknown.

6.3 Important Hedgerows

6.3.1 Seven hedgerows within this CFA meet criteria one to five of Schedule One, Part II of the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations and can therefore be considered 'important' under the terms of the regulations:

- DHW148 (Middleton Estate boundary);
- DHW149 (Shirrall deer park boundary);
- DHW150 (Shirrall and Drayton deer park boundary);
- DHW151 (Shirrall, Bangley and Drayton deer park boundary);
- DHW152 (Bangley deer park boundary);
- DHW153 (Weeford parish boundary); and
- DHW154 (Knox Graves Lane).

7 Archaeological character

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 To help assess the archaeological potential for the study area, it was sub-divided into archaeological character areas (ACA). These ACAs are derived from a consideration of the current topography, geology and current land use of the area. From these factors the potential for recovery of archaeological remains are considered.
- 7.1.2 From these broad character areas, the landscape was further subdivided into archaeological sub-zones, which have allowed for a more in-depth understanding of the archaeological potential of the CFA. Although initially defined and characterised by current land use, a number of additional factors have determined the potential of these sub-zones to contain archaeological remains of significance. These factors include topography, geology, historic character and distribution of known archaeological finds, sites and assets.

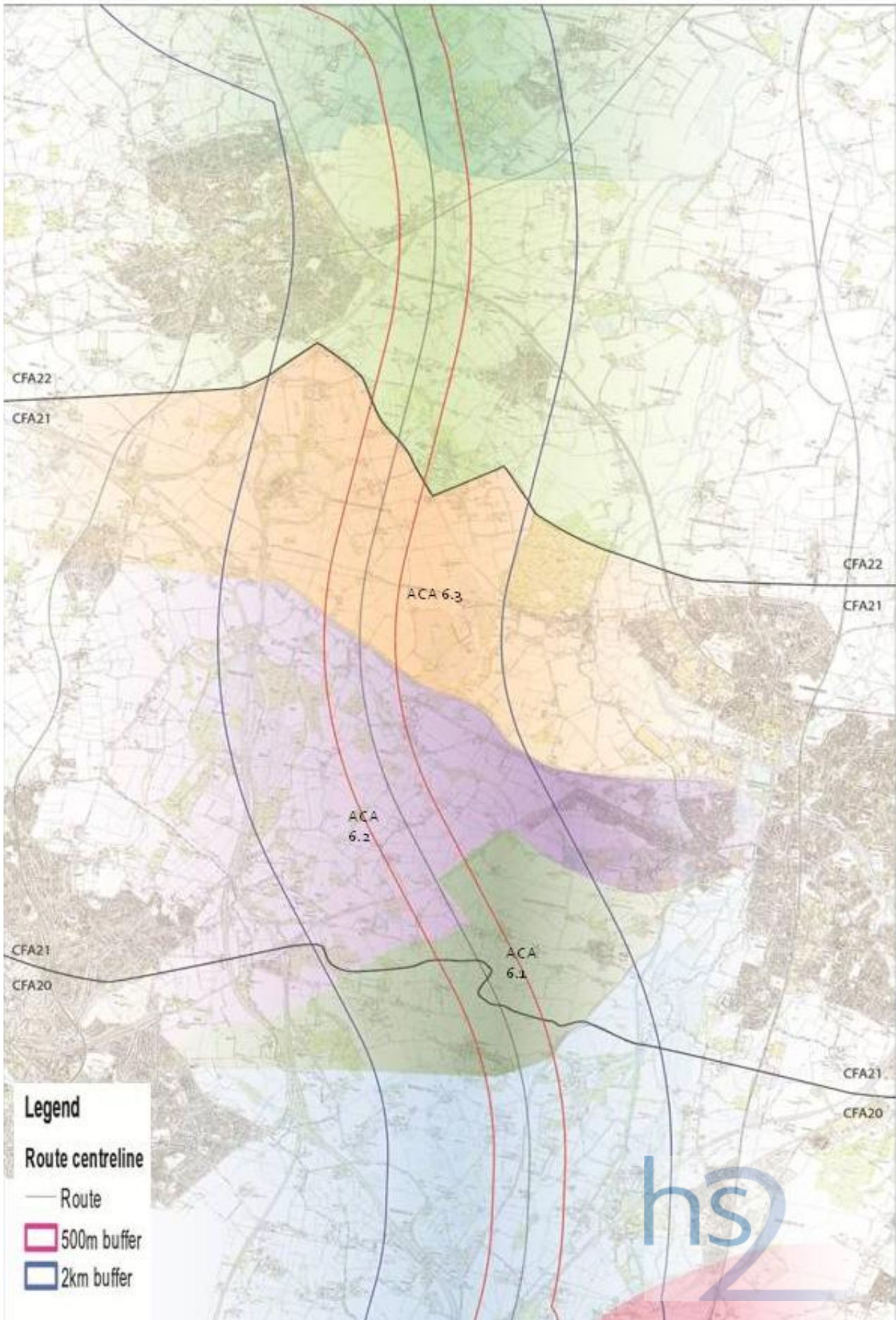
7.2 Character areas

- 7.2.1 The ACAs described below extend from south to north along the CFA.

ACA 6.1 River Terraces and Tributaries

- 7.2.2 The southern part of the study area is characterised by River Terraces and Tributaries. The presence of these tributaries influenced the development of industry in the area, with historic mills and iron works known from the ACA. No evidence of these historic industries remains above ground, and the landscape is now dominated by large 20th century fieldscapes with some historic legibility of earlier agricultural divisions surrounding Middleton village.
- 7.2.3 The presence of Gallows Brook may also have influenced prehistoric exploitation of the ACA with increased potential within this area. The historic county boundary between Staffordshire and Warwickshire, which runs along the brook, traverses the zone. The landscape of the ACA was historically characterised by deer parks; these were all enclosed throughout the 18th and 19th centuries consequently the farmsteads within the zone all date to the 19th and 20th centuries. The northern limit of this zone is defined by a distinct change in topography. The geology and topography of the zone, being dominated largely by free-draining sands and gravels of the river terraces and having a relatively level topography, which rises gently north-westwards.

Figure 1: Archaeological Character Areas



ACA6.2 Hints Hills and Black-Bourne Brook

- 7.2.4 The second ACA identified within the CFA is Hints Hills and Black-Bourne Brook. This ACA is dominated by rolling hills with peaks of 152m AOD, with Black-Bourne Brook flowing northwest to southeast at the northern end of the zone at 81m AOD. The zone is dominated by small 18th and 19th century fieldscapes with pockets of ancient woodland throughout, the village of Hints, which has medieval origins, is also located within the ACA. Historically the area would also have featured small fields and areas of woodland, with Hints Hall Park is located to the east of Hints village. The presence of Black-Bourne Brook has influenced medieval activity within the zone, with a number of mills and forges known along its length. The northern limit of this zone is defined by the old A5 road, this also marks a change in topography.

ACA6.3 River Terrace North of A5

- 7.2.5 The final ACA identified within the CFA is the River Terrace North of the A5. This is a relatively flat area from 100-110m AOD, with a small valley at 90m AOD, running west to east across the zone. Large post-war fields dominate the south eastern end of the zone, with 18th and 19th century enclosure featured across the remainder of the area. Scattered 18th and 19th century farmsteads also feature within the area. Modern developments, including a gravel quarry and new infrastructure feature at the southern and eastern edge of the zone. The elevated position of the ACA above Black-Bourne Brook would have been an ideal location of prehistoric settlement and activity, evidence of which has been identified through aerial photographs and excavations. Beyond the recent infrastructure and gravel quarry at the southern end of the ACA little disturbance has taken place, thus increasing the potential for recovery of archaeological remains.

7.3 Archaeological Sub-Zones

- 7.3.1 The archaeological sub-zones are presented in Table 1 from south to north. An indication of archaeological potential for each sub-zone provided. Plans showing the sub-zones can be found in Volume 5, Maps CH-03-059 through CH-03-060.

Table 1: Archaeological subzones

No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character	Archaeology
1	Arable fields between two brooks on river terrace	Area of high ground overlooking Gallows Brook, continues to rise to the west.	Mercia mudstone group. With head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel.	Agricultural land.	Large irregular fields and very large post-war fields. Little historic legibility.	No archaeological remains within the sub-zone, however, its location overlooking Gallows Brook indicates potential for buried remains, particularly prehistoric remains.
2	Gallows Brook valley	Floodplain and valley side rising to the north and south.	Mercia mudstone group. Alluvium of clay, silt, sand and gravel along the valley floor with river terrace deposits of sand and gravel between branches of the brook.	Agricultural fields, mainly arable.	Fieldscape, very large post-war fields resulting from amalgamation of piecemeal enclosure. The brook represents the county boundary between Staffordshire and Warwickshire.	Ridge and furrow recorded south of the brook. A number of former marl pits recorded within the sub-zone. Potential for buried remains within the valley of the Brook and possible palaeo-environmental remains. Roman artefacts found to the south.
3	Arable fields on terraces	Located on terrace, slopes towards Bourne Brook at the northeast.	Mercia mudstone group with diamiction till deposits.	Fieldsapes, largely arable, with dispersed settlement and pockets of woodland.	Fieldscape. 18 th and 19 th century semi-planned enclosure, formerly deer parks.	Field system of unknown date recorded in the southeast corner of the sub-zone. Field walking has been undertaken surrounding this field system and finds dating from the prehistoric to the post medieval periods have been recovered. The area was formerly occupied by a number of deer parks, earthwork evidence has been identified at the southwest of the sub-zone. The location of the sub-zone, close to Bourne Brook and Gallows Brook indicated potential for buried archaeological remains.
4	Hints Hills	Undulating landscape of hills, highest peak of 152m AOD at Brock Hurst plantation.	Mercia mudstone group with diamiction till deposits recorded at the north-eastern end of the sub-zone.	Agricultural land, mixture of arable and pasture with pockets of woodland throughout.	Fieldsapes, dominated by small rectilinear fields, 18 th and 19 th century planned enclosure with pockets of ancient woodland	Two possible barrows located within the sub-zone, although they may be natural features. Just outside the sub-zone, to the west, Bronze Age remains have been excavated. Possible prehistoric flints have also been found at the southern end of the sub-zone. The southern end of the zone was part of Bangley Deer Park during the medieval and period.

No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character	Archaeology
5	Bourne Brook valley	The Brook lies at 80-85m AOD with the valley sides rising to heights of 100m.	Mercia mudstone group. Alluvial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel along the Brook.	Agricultural, mixture of pasture and arable.	Fieldscape, water and valley floor fields with small irregular fields and some large post-war fields.	Hints medieval settlement is located within the sub-zone, with associated medieval and post medieval remains along the brook, including mills and a forge. A medieval moated site is also located within the sub-zone.
6	Hints	Located on valley side, slopes north to south 100-80m.	Mercia mudstone group.	Modern and historic settlement of Hints.	Historic settlement with surrounding fieldscape.	Medieval core of Hints with post medieval buildings and features.
7	Arable fields south of A5	Terrace overlooking Bourne Brook.	Mercia mudstone group.	Agriculture, mainly arable with the old A5 traversing the sub-zone. Also some dispersed settlement along the roadside.	Fieldscape, large post-war fields.	The course of the Roman road, Watling Street, runs through this sub-zone. The construction of the new A5 directly to the north of the sub-zone revealed archaeological remains dating to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Remains included pit alignments, ditches, post holes and enclosures.
8	A5	Traverse the terrace of the Bourne Brook.	Mercia mudstone group.	Road.	Previously fieldscapes, planned enclosure and very large post-war fields.	During the construction of the new A5 archaeological remains dating to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods were revealed. Remains included pit alignments, ditches, post holes and enclosures.
9	Hints quarry	N/A	Mercia mudstone group.	Quarry.	Fieldscape, very large post-war fields.	Flints found at the quarry, any associated archaeological remains have most likely been destroyed.
10	Arable area with large post-war fields	Gently undulating land from 95-110m.	Mercia mudstone group.	Agriculture, mainly arable with some dispersed settlement.	Fieldscape, large irregular fields and very large post-war fields.	Cropmarks of possible prehistoric sites recorded within the sub-zone, including enclosures, a pit alignment, linear features and a possible ring ditch. The surrounding area is rich in prehistoric and Romano-British sites, some of which were excavated prior to the construction of the A5 to the south.
11	Arable area with sinuous field boundaries	Largely on terrace, relatively flat at 90-100m AOD.	Mercia mudstone group.	Agriculture, mainly arable with pockets of woodland and dispersed settlement.	Fieldscape, large 18 th and 19 th century planned enclosure and small irregular fields.	Cropmark sites including a rectilinear enclosure and pits and ditches are known within the sub-zone. The surrounding area is rich in prehistoric and Romano-British sites, some of which were excavated prior to the construction of the A5 to the south.

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No	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character	Archaeology
12	Arable fieldscape characterised by 18 th and 19 th century farms	Flat area with slight rise towards the north.	Mercia mudstone group.	Agriculture, mainly arable with dispersed farmsteads throughout.	Fieldscape, 18 th and 19 th century planned enclosure.	No archaeological sites known however moderate potential due to quantity of known sites directly to the south. Geophysical Survey (Wessex Archaeology 31 May 2013 reference Appendix 4) identified no features of definite archaeological interest in fields adjacent to Ingley Hill Farm and Freeford Home farm.

8 Analysis and research potential

8.1 Analysis of understanding

- 8.1.1 The over-riding character of modern land use within the study area is agricultural fields, with arable agriculture dominating at the southern and northern ends of the study area. At the southern end, sub-zone 1 is located on an area of higher ground overlooking Gallows Brook to the north of Middleton with deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel recorded. There is potential for prehistoric remains to be found here, given its topographic position and proximity to a water source. An L-shaped feature has also been identified on aerial photographs within the sub-zone thus increasing the potential of the sub-zone to contain archaeological remains. Sub-zone 3, to the south of Hints Hills and north of Gallows Brook, is located on a terrace which slopes gently towards Black-Bourne Brook at the northeast. Although dominated by arable fields there are isolated pockets of woodland within the sub-zone at the south-western corner. There is high potential for recovering archaeological remains within this sub-zone as fieldwalking undertaken in parts of the sub-zone have recovered artefacts from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period. Cropmark features are also known within the sub-zone, thus increasing the potential further. During the medieval period much of the sub-zone was part of a number of medieval deer parks and earthwork evidence has been identified relating to this period.
- 8.1.2 North of Black-Bourne Brook are four sub-zones dominated by arable agriculture (nos. 7, 10-12). Sub-zone 7 is occupied by large post-war fields with dispersed settlement along its length, mainly situated along the line of the old A5 road, on a terrace overlooking Black-Bourne Brook. Excavations to the north of the sub-zone, prior to the construction of the new A5, revealed archaeological remains of prehistoric and Romano-British date. This increases the potential of this sub-zone to reveal further, possibly associated, remains. Sub-zones 10-12 are also located on gently undulating terraces dominated by post-war and 18th and 19th century enclosure. Archaeological remains are known from these sub-zones, particularly sub-zones 10 and 11, where cropmark enclosures and pit alignments of likely prehistoric date have been identified on aerial photographs. There is high potential for encountering archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period within sub-zones 10 and 11, and moderate potential within sub-zone 12 owing to the lack of known sites but proximity to remains to the south.
- 8.1.3 The area between the two concentrations of arable land is dominated by pastoral agriculture and woodland with some small pockets of arable (sub-zone 4). The sub-zone has an undulating landscape with prominent hills throughout which reach peaks of 152m AOD. The fieldscape consists of small rectilinear fields, 18th and 19th century planned enclosure and pockets of ancient and modern woodland. Archaeological remains within the sub-zone include a possible field system of unknown date and ridge and furrow identified from aerial photographs and the remains of two possible barrows, although these may be natural features. There is moderate potential for archaeological remains to be encountered; although the steep undulating landscape would have been largely unsuitable for settlement the peaks and areas of more level ground in parts may have seen some activity during the prehistoric and historic periods.

- 8.1.4 Two nucleated settlements are located within the ACA, Hints (sub-zone 6) and Whittington Barracks (sub-zone 14). Hints, located in Black-Bourne Brook valley, has medieval origins and there is high potential for revealing medieval remains relating to its settlement and development within and surrounding the village. Whittington Barracks (sub-zone 14) was established on heathland in the 19th century and the buildings at this sub-zone would likely have destroyed any archaeological remains in this area.
- 8.1.5 Modern developments and disturbances have been identified at two sub-zones (sub-zones 8-9) which considerably reduce the potential for archaeological remains. These sub-zones include the modern A5 road (sub-zone 8), constructed in the early 20th century and Hints Quarry (sub-zone 9) which is still operational today. Archaeological remains have been identified and excavated at both sub-zones and the survival of any further remains is highly unlikely.
- 8.1.6 River and stream valleys feature within the study area, from the small valley of Gallows Brook (sub-zone 2) at the southern end and that of Black-Bourne Brook at Hints (sub-zone 5). The river and stream valleys all contain alluvium which may mask archaeological remains under consecutive layers of clay and silt and may also have potential to preserve palaeo-environmental remains in water logged conditions. The gravels associated with these rivers and streams may contain early prehistoric remains.
- 8.1.7 Black-Bourne Brook has been used for economic purposes throughout history, with evidence of medieval and post-medieval mills and forges. Therefore there is a moderate potential for encountering archaeological remains within these sub-zones. Gallows Brook (sub-zone 2) would also have been of economic value throughout history and archaeological remains, including prehistoric finds and post-medieval industrial remains are known within and surrounding both sub-zones. It also marks the county boundary between Staffordshire and Warwickshire therefore may have had a deeper social significance as well as an economic one. Both sub-zones are currently occupied by agricultural land, with a mixture of arable, pasture and patches of woodland surrounding Black-Bourne Brook. These sub-zones have little previous disturbance beyond that caused by historic and modern ploughing and there is a moderate potential to recover further archaeological remains, particularly of prehistoric and post-medieval date.
- 8.1.8 Excavations carried out in advance of the A5 Weeford to Fazeley Improvement Scheme⁶⁶ have revealed evidence of Iron Age and Romano-British activity within the study area and a number of cropmark enclosures and features are known to the north of Hints. This area is high potential for revealing further unrecorded archaeological remains.
- 8.1.9 It is thought that the area would have been largely wooded during the early medieval period, with colonisation and assarting undertaken during the medieval period. The landscape and society changed considerable during the post-medieval period, with the enclosure of the landscape and developments in infrastructure and industry. There is high potential for land divisions and small scale extraction site to be located within

⁶⁶ Cramp, K. (2006) *Excavations on the A5 Weeford to Fazeley Road Improvement Scheme, Staffordshire*. Oxford Archaeology: Oxford.

the study area, as well as post-medieval and possibly earlier industrial remains along the course of Black-Bourne Brook.

- 8.1.10 Therefore, it is considered the area of highest archaeological potential is located in the central section of the CFA on either side of Watling Street and Black-Bourne Brook Valley. This is indicated by the number of cropmarks recorded in these areas and the retrieval of artefacts from the southern end of the CFA.
- 8.1.11 A review of baseline data has shown that there is a complete lack of palaeo-environmental evidence within the study area and a general lack of data from the surrounding landscape. There are a number of streams (sub-zones 2 and 5) within the study area which have the potential to preserve palaeo-environmental evidence.

8.2 Research potential and priorities

- 8.2.1 An archaeological Research Framework for the West Midlands⁶⁷ provides an introduction to key themes of research in the region by period. The framework does not identify priorities for research within or between periods. However, reflecting the potential of the land required for the Proposed Scheme in this CFA, and drawing on the general themes identified in the published research framework, the following questions could provide the focus for investigation carried out in this study area in terms of period based and multi-period based landscape research:
- can waterlogged deposits within the study area provide evidence of the environment in the prehistoric and Romano-British periods?
 - through the recovery of environmental evidence, can any light be shed on the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in the region?
 - what can artefact concentrations from varying soil types tell us about exploitation of the landscape in Prehistoric periods?
 - is the apparent concentration of Neolithic features at the Tame/Trent confluence to the north of the study area a true reflection of activity in this period, or were there other features elsewhere such as barrows and henges which have since been ploughed out?
 - was there Iron Age settlement along the route of the A5, which is suggested by field boundaries of this period north of Hints?
 - what were the scale, diversity and socio-economic importance of post-medieval local industries along the Black-Bourne Brook in comparison to large scale industries to the south the west?

⁶⁷ Watt, S., ed. (2011) *The Archaeology of the west midlands: a framework for research*. Oxford: Oxbow Books.

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